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Congress Is Urged To Investigate FBI

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By Charles Krause

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PRINCETON, N.J., Oct. 30 — The three co-chairmen of the two-day Conference on the FBI called on Congress today for a "thorough review" of the FBI "neither to vindicate nor condemn the bureau" but "only to improve it."

Burke Marshall, former assistant attorney general during the Kennedy administration, Norman Dorsen, a professor of law at New York University, and W. Duane Lockard, chairman of Princeton University's politics department, said that "for 50 years a powerful federal agency has not had the thorough review that we believe freedom and good government require in a democracy."

The conference, which ended this afternoon, made a start toward such an inquiry, the co-chairmen said, but was hampered "for lack of public information." "We urge our legislative representatives to consider a national commission of inquiry that would answer many of the questions raised here," they said.

The co-chairmen suggested that the Senate, having power of approval over the next director of the FBI, might do the job.

One of the conference's participants had another view, however. Bernard Fensterwald, former counsel to the Administrative Practices Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he did not think Congress "is ever going to investigate J. Edgar Hoover or the FBI. Hoover's got a dossier on everyone on the Hill, and they know it."

William Hundley, chief of the Justice Department's organized crime division from 1958 to 1966, said he believed one of the reasons the FBI had been lax in investigating organized crime was that many congressmen had connections with the Mafia and that, conversely, congressmen will be loath to investigate the bureau because they feared the FBI might retaliate.

Mr. Hoover is the complete

bureaucrat," Hundley said. "He always picked areas where he had the most popular and political support. In some political prosecutions I was involved with, the bureau was very, very sensitive."

The discussion of the FBI's investigation of organized crime stemmed from a paper presented to the conference by Fred J. Cook, author of "The FBI and Organized Crime." Cook said the FBI became interested in the Mafia only after Robert Kennedy became attorney general and even then was not always cooperative.

A discussion of the FBI's performance in investigating civil rights voting discrimination cases was led by John Doar, former assistant attorney general in the civil rights division. Doar said that before 1964 "we found that the bureau didn't know the first thing about its job" of investigating discrimination cases.

But after CIA Director Allen Dulles spent two days investigating an increasingly violent situation in Mississippi in 1964, "the bureau really performed," he said.

Doar defended the FBI's use of informers, wiretaps and electronic surveillance in gaining information about the Ku Klux Klan and differed sharply with opinions expressed earlier in the conference that the use of informers "raises the specter of a police state."

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